

# Indiana House of Representatives

## News and Information

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### **OXLEY: CRAWFORD COUNTY SAVED FROM GOP ATTACKS**

INDIANAPOLIS – Thanks to the work of State Rep. Dennie Oxley and other lawmakers, Crawford County will not have its riverboat money taken away by Republicans in the Indiana General Assembly.

As the 2005 session of the Legislature came to a close, Oxley said members of the House and Senate chose not to consider a Republican plan that would have taken \$3 million in riverboat revenues away from Crawford County to help balance the biennial state budget.

"In the end, there were too many people on both sides of the aisle who felt we would be going back on a promise to take back funding dedicated to Crawford County," Oxley said. "There were many influential people who wanted to see these funds taken away, including Gov. Daniels, but we were able to convince them that they were wrong."

Under agreements that have been in effect for several years, Crawford County receives \$3 million each year from riverboats in Harrison and Switzerland Counties.

"That money has been of enormous help in helping improve our roads, provide better police and fire protection, and complete projects that ordinarily would have been set aside because the local funding was simply not available," Oxley said. "The consequences for local residents would have been dire if that money had been taken away."

Although the effort did fail, Oxley said there was a need to be on constant guard against future attempts to take away riverboat money.

"The fact that such a plan was even considered this time around shows the risk that future Legislatures could consider similar proposals," Oxley said. "This money should not be held hostage in order to gain political advantage. The riverboat money belongs to the people of Crawford County, and as long as I'm a member of the Indiana General Assembly, I will do everything in my power to protect their interests."

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